29th January 1923]

The Madras Light-house.

674 Q.—Mr. V. HAMID SULTAN MARAKKAYAR: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the spiral staircase leading to the lantern room of the Madras Light-house is dark, causing inconvenience to visitors thereto; and, if so, what steps the Government would take to have the passage lighted;

(b) whether it is a fact that the fees levied from visitors to the Light-house are credited to the Light-keepers' Recreation and Benefit Fund; if so, what amount was credited to this fund in the years 1917, 1918, 1919, 1920 and 1921; and

(c) the expenses defrayed and the total amount utilized from this fund during the years 1917, 1918, 1919, 1920 and 1921 and the balance of the fund on 1st April 1922, including the amount, if any, due to this fund?

A.—(a) The staircase in question has been in use since 1894 and the Government are aware of no complaints regarding it with the exception of the letter of a correspondent in the *Daily Express* for the 30th November last which was couched in language of such extravagance that the Government doubt whether it was serious. The Presidency Port Officer is, however, now inquiring into the matter.

(b) & (c) The fees are credited to the Light-keepers' Recreation and Benefit Fund. The following statement shows the receipts, expenditure and balance of the fund for the years in question:—

	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Balance of the fund at the end of the year.
	RS.	RS.	RS.
1917–18	4,783	2,763	2,020
1918–19	3,070	2,067	3,023
1919–20	6,084	2,204	6,903
1920–21	5,930	2,876	9,957
1921–22	5,525	3,989	11,493

Bridge across Kaduvayar.

675 Q.—Mr. V. HAMID SULTAN MARAKKAYAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state the reason why the construction of a bridge across the Kaduvayar in Tanjore district has not yet been commenced?

A.—The Government have no definite information but, apparently, the work was not commenced for want of funds.

Issue of takavi loans.

676 Q.—Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government have issued instructions to revenue subordinates and village officers to encourage ryots, especially those living in the districts within the famine zone, to take takavi loans;